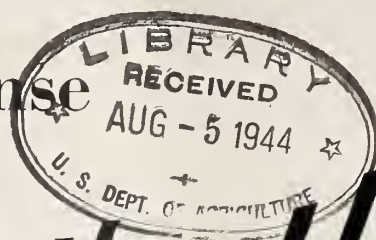


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Our National Defense
Starts With



Defense of the Home



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Washington, D. C.
March 1941

As the Farm Woman Sees It!

AAA Helps Defend the American Home and Protect Family and Community

A large and ever-increasing number of American farm homemakers believe the farm program is a woman's business, because the farm program is good business

for American homes and communities. These women, typical of farm women in all States, speak for themselves:

ALABAMA

"Food is the most important thing of all, whether we are defending a nation or just trying to keep a little family healthy and happy," says an Alabama farm homemaker. "Today nearly every woman I know on the farm is making some effort to improve the family diet. The AAA has been a big help."

IDAHO

Farm income has improved with the help of the national farm program, but there's still a long way to go, in the opinion of an Idaho farm woman. She says: "While income and prices have improved since the big depression, living costs have increased, too. Take common work shirts. The 1932 mail order catalog listed them at 62 cents. Now they're 70 cents. Other things have gone up the same way."

INDIANA

Improved income that came with the AAA was a boon to homemakers, says an Indiana farmer's wife: "When corn was 12 cents a bushel, hogs 3 cents a pound, and wheat 30 cents a bushel, I wonder how we got along. Sometimes we had hardly enough money for gasoline to get to church. We were worried sick. In 1932, and for a while after that, we had the worst times we've ever had. Then this new way came along and we've been able to keep our home and stay on the farm."

NEBRASKA

The sledding has been hard, but farmers' wives in the drought area have been carrying through in the pioneer tradition. A Nebraska farm woman says: "The hoppers have nearly wiped us out these last 2 years. I think one of the main things the program does is to keep us from giving up hope. Conservation payments, crop insurance, and wheat and corn loans have helped us keep going."

NEW MEXICO

The AAA range program pays—take it from a New Mexico rancher's wife: "We've done around \$4,000 worth of conservation work under the AAA. Without the program it would have taken us 10 to 15 years, and it had to be done before we could start improving our house. Now we've completed an addition of four rooms and made many other improvements. Our boys will grow up knowing more about good range management than their father did when he started."

NEW YORK

An up-State New York farm woman, whose family has been on its farm through four generations, appreciates the help the AAA extends to farmers who are trying to keep their land fertile and their communities prosperous. She says: "Our good churches and schools wouldn't exist if we did not have good farms. We know how important it is to conserve the soil. In our own county, schools and churches have been forced to close because farmers could no longer make a living on worn-out land."

TEXAS

"It was a shock to me to read that so many American boys called in the draft are underweight and have poor teeth and eyesight," says a Texas farm woman. "In many cases these defects come from not getting enough of the right things to eat. I'm glad to know the AAA has special provisions encouraging home gardens and the production of more food for home use. You might call it the farm home defense program."

VIRGINIA

"Under the AAA program, farmers are able to plan in terms of family needs instead of thinking strictly in terms of cash returns," says a Virginia farm woman. "The conservation program gives more families a chance to grow feed crops and to have home gardens. And more efficient farming methods mean more time and money for home improvement."



How the Farm Program Makes Home and Community More Secure

More Money for Family Budgets

Nation-wide cooperation in the AAA is raising the income for American farm families. This means that rural women can buy for their families more of the things needed for abundant, comfortable living. More purchases by farm people mean jobs and better pay for city wage earners—more comforts for American homes. Good homes produce strong, loyal citizens—America's best defense.

The AAA, as part of the national farm program, insures the future security of farm families. It helps American farmers to adjust their business to changing world conditions. It helps America to avoid the disasters of rapid soil depletion and price-depressing surpluses. Any safeguard to the welfare of the farm family, and to the protection of farm income, is a safeguard to city families who depend on farm buying power. Thus the farm program contributes to the sound national economy so essential to defense.

More Security for the Future

Security afforded by the AAA has a particular appeal to farm housewives who know that having a roof over their heads and land and equipment for farming depends on paying taxes and meeting payments on the farm mortgage and equipment regularly. Farm women sleep better nights knowing their income is protected by conservation payments and crop insurance, even in years of crop failure. They see in the farm program a defense against the uncertainties of the future.

Farm women know the family future is safer because of conservation practices which guarantee con-

tinued ability of the land to produce. All America is safer today because AAA has enabled farmers to conserve their soil for emergencies as well as normal future needs.

Protection for Consumers

Housewives everywhere benefit from the Ever-Normal Granary—the corn, the wheat, the cotton stored up and held in reserve. To the Nation this means agriculture is well prepared for defense. To housewives this means protection against food shortage, against too-high prices.

Community Welfare

The AAA is the farmer's program. He plans it through the thousands of elected community committees in rural America. He runs it through his community, county, and State committees. He discusses it in meetings from coast to coast, exchanging ideas and getting the other fellow's viewpoint—and that's a step toward national unity which the defense of America requires. And in all these steps the farm woman is vitally concerned.

The whole farm family benefits through educational features of the farm program. Country boys and girls and their parents have learned much about the care of the land from studying conservation practices. Instead of thinking only in terms of cash income, farm people are encouraged, through the AAA, to plan production around family living. The resulting improvement in farms and in family living standards gives rural families more to hope for, more to work for, more to fight for. The farm program has given farmers a bigger stake in a better America.